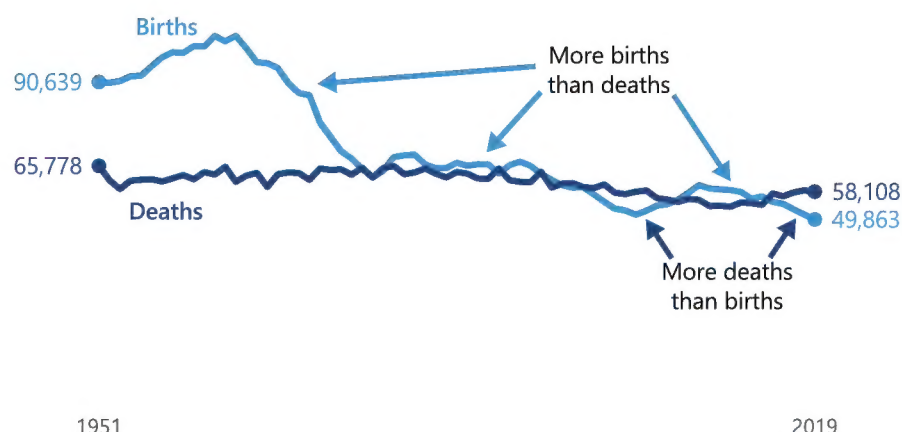


## There were more deaths than births

2019 is the fifth year running where there were more deaths than births. There were 8,245 more deaths than births. This is often referred to as negative natural change.

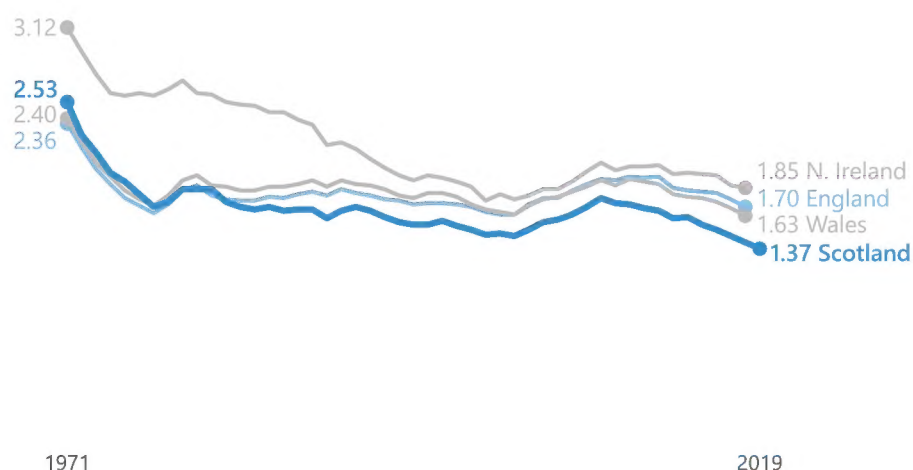
Births and deaths



## Scotland has the lowest fertility in the UK

Until 1970, Scotland's total fertility rate (TFR) was slightly higher than that for England and Wales. However, since the early 1980s, Scotland's TFR has dropped steadily and is now the lowest of the UK countries.

Total UK fertility rates, UK countries\*



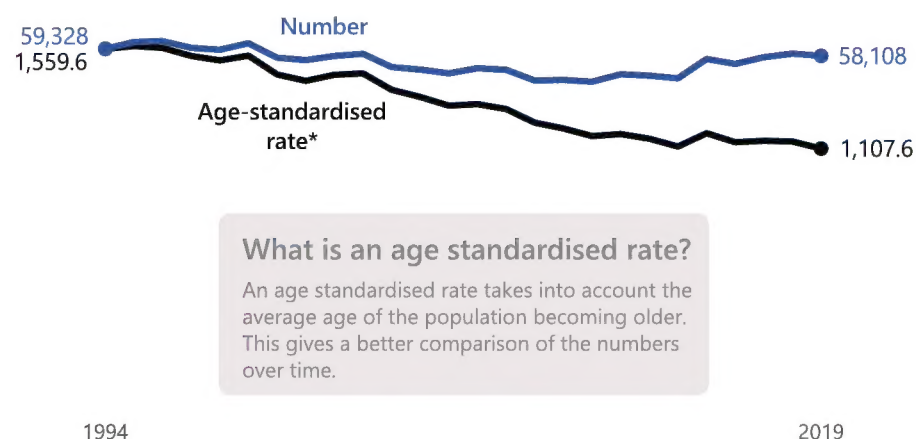
\* Most recent values for England, Wales and Northern Ireland from 2018

## The number of deaths has increased

The number of deaths decreased by 0.7% to 58,108 in 2019, but has been on an upward trend since 2011.

The age-standardised death rate fell by 3% in 2019, although it has been largely stable since 2014.

Deaths, numbers and rates



### What is an age standardised rate?

An age standardised rate takes into account the average age of the population becoming older. This gives a better comparison of the numbers over time.

\* Rate per 100,000 population based on the ESP 2013